

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 6 stands objected to, with claims 4, 5 and 7-16 rejected in the outstanding Official Action. Claims 4 and 16 have been amended and claims 5 and 6 cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 4 and 7-16 remain in this application.

The Examiner rejects claim 16 under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite. The Examiner's suggestion of canceling "wherein the second width is half or less of the first width" from claim 16 is appreciated and this amendment has been made in the amendment to claim 16. This amendment is believed to obviate any further rejection to claim 16. The indication of allowable subject matter in claim 16 is very much appreciated.

Claims 4, 5, 7-9, 11, 12, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over Byrne and Ansuini as previously stated. The Examiner indicates on page 6 that claim 6 contains allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 4 to include the limitation of claim 6 while at the same time canceling claims 5 and 6. Thus, the allowable subject matter of claim 6 is now written in independent claim 4 and therefore claim 4 and claims 7-15 dependent thereon are in condition for allowance. These amendments are believed to obviate the rejection under 35 USC §103.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over the the Byrne/Ansuini combination, further in view of Agarwala. Inasmuch as claim 10 depends from allowable claim 4, claim 10 is now believed allowable, thereby obviating the rejection.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over the Byrne/Ansuini combination, further in view of Nakada. Inasmuch as claim 13 depends from

allowable claim 4, claim 13 is now believed allowable. Any further rejection of claim 13 under 35 USC §103 has been obviated.

Entry of the Amendment Under Rule 116

Entry of the above amendment under the provisions of Rule 116 is respectfully requested, in that the Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claim 6 is allowable subject matter and therefore its incorporation into claim 4 rendering claim 4 allowable and all claims dependent thereon, i.e., claims 7-15, allowable.

Applicants have also amended claim 16 in the manner suggested by the Examiner, therefore making claim 16 allowable. Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled and therefore the only remaining claims 4 and 7-16 are all believed allowable in view of the amendment. Allowance of these claims terminates prosecution on the merits and moots any issue relating to appeal. In view of the close of prosecution, no appeal and no further action is required and this application, upon entry of the above amendment, is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, no new issues have been raised (because claims 6 and 16 were previously pending and noted as containing allowable subject matter) and therefore the Examiner has previously considered the subject matter of claims 4, 5 and 6.

In view of the above, entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

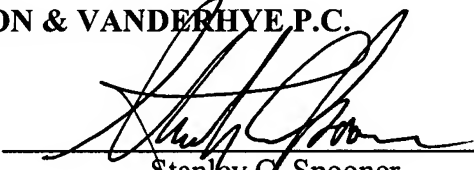
Having responded to all objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Official Action, it is submitted that remaining claims 4 and 7-16 are indicated as allowable and official notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one or more of the above claims, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

HARRIS et al.
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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.

By: _____


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